

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action transmitted April 11, 2007. Claims 1-30 are pending in the Application and stand rejected. Applicant amends Claims 1, 3, 12, 23, and 28, cancels Claim 14, adds new Claims 31-35, and respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,016,875 issued to Steele et al. ("*Steele*"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons stated below.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a method for authenticating and authorizing a user of an electronic device in communication with a network. The method includes registering a user with a network. At the time the user is registered, a unique universal user identifier representing the user is generated. The unique universal identifier is at least partially based on personal information supplied by the user during registration with the network. A user request is received from the user who uses an electronic device in communication with a network. Information related to the user is searched for in a repository of user information. The search is based at least partially on the user request and a login identity supplied by the user. Upon locating the information of the user, the unique universal user identifier representing the user is retrieved from the repository of user information. At least the unique universal user identifier is stored in a data packet and sent to a storage device such that the data packet is transmittable to electronic devices in communication with the network when the user attempts to access a resource within the network. Based at least partially on the unique universal user identifier, authorization data associated with the user is retrieved from the resource.

The Office Action contends that *Steele* discloses "retrieving, from the repository of user information, a unique universal user identifier representing said user upon locating said information of said user." Office Action pp. 2-3. The Office Action further contends that the unique universal user identifier of Claim 1 is disclosed by the GUID of *Steele* (col. 10. lines

19-24). Office Action p. 3. However, *Steele* discloses “a ticket generated by the host server 108 [that] may be a ‘Globally Unique Identifier’ (‘GUID’) ... compris[ing] a unique number that is computed by adding the time and date to a network adapter’s internal serial number, or by any other suitable technique.” See *Steele*, Column 10, lines 20-24 (emphasis added). “The client device 104 may also transmit a request that a ‘ticket’ be provided to the vendor server.” *Steele*, Col. 9, lines 56-58. Accordingly, *Steele* does not disclose, teach, or suggest retrieving, from the repository of user information, a unique universal user identifier generated at the time the user registers with the network, the unique universal user identifier at least partially based on information supplied by said user during registration with said network.

Steele discloses “consumer-defined attributes” that are “correlate[d] [with] one or more tickets.” *Steele*, Col. 9, lines 62-63. *Steele* also discloses “database schema 400 [that] may include a consumer authentication record 402 that stores consumer authentication information 404 such as, for example, . . . ticket parameters.” *Steele*, Col. 13, lines 46-51. However, the “ticket parameters” and “consumer-defined attributes” are not the same as a unique universal user identifier that is at least partially based on information supplied by a user during registration with the network.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully contends that *Steele* does not disclose, teach, or suggest each of the limitations of Claim 1 and requests that the rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-11 and 31 each depend from Claim 1 and incorporate all the limitations thereof. Therefore, Claims 2-11 and 31 are each patentably distinguishable from *Steele* for at least the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1.

Similar to Claim 1, amended Claim 12 includes limitations generally directed to generating a unique universal user identifier at the time a user is registered with a network. The unique universal identifier is at least partially based on information supplied by the user during registration with said network. In response to identifying data, the unique universal user identifier is retrieved from a repository of unique universal user identifiers.

Accordingly, Applicant contends that Claim 12 is patentably distinguishable from *Steele* for at least the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1.

Claims 13-17 and 32 each depend from Claim 12 and incorporate all the limitations thereof. Therefore, Claims 13-17 and 32 are each patentably distinguishable from *Steele* for at least the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claims 1 and 12.

Claims 18 and 23 include limitations generally directed to a repository containing a plurality of unique universal user identifiers, each of said unique universal user identifiers being unique to a user. One of said unique universal user identifiers is retrieved from the repository.

The Office Action contends that these limitations are disclosed by *Steele*. In particular, the Office Action contends that “accessing a repository containing a plurality of unique universal user identifiers, each of said unique universal user identifiers being unique to a user,” is disclosed by *Steele*, “fig. 1 element 102, and col. 9 lines 3-col. 10 lines 44.” Office Action p. 6. As stated above, *Steele* discloses “a ticket generated by the host server 108 [that] may be a ‘Globally Unique Identifier’ (‘GUID’) ... compris[ing] a unique number that is computed by adding the time and date to a network adapter’s internal serial number, or by any other suitable technique.” See *Steele*, Column 10, lines 20-24 (emphasis added). Accordingly, *Steele* does not disclose, teach, or suggest a repository containing a plurality of unique universal user identifiers. *Steele* also does not disclose, teach, or suggest, retrieving one of such unique universal user identifiers from the repository.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully contends that *Steele* does not disclose, teach, or suggest each of the limitations of Claims 18 and 23 and requests that the rejection of these Claims be withdrawn.

Claims 19-22, 33 and 24-27, 34 each depend respectively from Claims 18 and 23 and incorporate all the respective limitations thereof. Therefore, Claims 19-22, 33 and 24-27, 34 are each patentably distinguishable from *Steele* for at least the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 18 and 23.

Claim 28 includes limitations directed to retrieving from an authentication database a unique universal user identifier representing a user upon locating a user credential. As discussed above, *Steele* discloses “a ticket generated by the host server 108 [that] may be a ‘Globally Unique Identifier’ (‘GUID’) ... compris[ing] a unique number that is computed by adding the time and date to a network adapter’s internal serial number, or by any other suitable technique.” *See Steele*, Column 10, lines 20-24 (emphasis added). Accordingly, *Steele* does not disclose, teach, or suggest retrieving from an authentication database a unique universal user identifier representing said user upon locating a user credential.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully contends that *Steele* does not disclose, teach, or suggest each of the limitations of Claim 28 and requests that the rejection of Claim 28 be withdrawn.

Claims 10 and 19 each include limitations generally directed to storing and/or transmitting a cookie to a user electronic device.

The Office Action contends that this limitation is disclosed by *Steele*, column 2, lines 42-60. Office Action p. 9. However, the cited portions of *Steele* disclose a “single sign-on feature, i.e., the automatic management of subsequent authentications of the consumer. *Steele*, Col. 2, lines 62-63. This “single sign-on feature” does not involve storing and/or transmitting a cookie. In fact, such “single sign-on mechanism, at least in a preferred embodiment, [does not] require ‘add-ons’, ‘cookies’ or other special configurations for a web browser. . . .” *Steele*, Col. 22, lines 41-44. Accordingly, the cited sections of *Steele* do not disclose, teach, or suggest storing and/or transmitting a cookie to a user electronic device, and Claims 10 and 19 are allowable for at least these additional reasons.

Claims 31-35 include limitations generally directed to a unique universal user identifier comprising at least part of an account number or a social security number of the user.

As stated above, *Steele* discloses a ‘Globally Unique Identifier’ (‘GUID’) ... compris[ing] a unique number that is computed by adding the time and date to a network adapter’s internal serial number, or by any other suitable technique.” *See Steele*, Column 10, lines 20-24 (emphasis added). *Steele* does not disclose, teach, or suggest a unique universal user identifier comprising at least part of an account number or a social security number of the user. Accordingly, Claims 31-35 are allowable for at least these additional reasons.

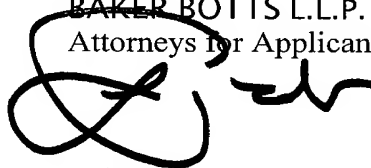
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicant stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of \$1,040.00 as payment of fees required to file the Request for Continued Examination and five (5) additional claims to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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